



### Robert in Parliament

[www.robertbrownmsp.org.uk](http://www.robertbrownmsp.org.uk)

Robert Brown has been appointed Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Group Spokesman on Justice and Civil Liberties.

*Robert says:* "People are naturally worried about crime, whether serious crime or the sort of vandalism which plagues local communities. They want remedies which are effective in tackling crime at its root. That means good community policing to protect the public, locking away those who commit serious crimes and are a danger to the public, and sorting out those who cause a nuisance before they get into more serious crime."

Robert is also the Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment and Co-Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Children and Young People.

### Action for local communities Botanic Gardens and Go Ape

Robert Brown gave strong support to the public campaigns against the proposed nightclub in the West End's historic Botanic Gardens and the controversial Go Ape development in Pollok Park. He is also backing the campaign to save the "A" listed Botanic Gardens Garage.

*Robert said:* "The Council needs to learn that local people will not sit back while their parks and green spaces are threatened with totally unsuitable developments which damage the environment. Thankfully, in the case of the Botanic Gardens, people power won the day, but the decision to approve the "Go Ape" proposal left local communities very annoyed. We need legislation to protect parks which are part of our legacy gifted to the people from earlier years."

"Bad consultation too often leads to ill judged outcomes which are highly controversial and unwelcome to people in the local neighbourhood."



Botanic Garden campaign

### Allotments Campaigns in Rutherglen and Glasgow

Robert Brown has been a long term supporter of allotments, particularly in the current economic climate. He is backing campaign groups in Rutherglen, Cambuslang and Glasgow who want to develop more allotments to meet the growing demand - and the benefits of school links, fresh and seasonal food and outdoor activity which go with them.

### Making the difference

#### Cutting Under Age Drinking

Lack of action against off licences selling to young people under 18 has been the subject of repeated Parliamentary questions by Robert Brown MSP. Now the numbers of test purchases are rising steadily and more is being done. Robert has also praised the 'Challenge 25' scheme used by some retailers to require young people purchasing alcohol to prove their age.



*Robert Brown said:* "Abuse of alcohol is a major problem in Scotland, and damages individuals, families and communities. It is quite unacceptable when offsales businesses are lax in permitting sales to those under 18."

#### Rutherglen Court

Robert Brown forced a debate and vote in the Scottish Parliament on the proposal to close Rutherglen District Court and centralise all the business for the new JP Courts in Glasgow Central Court.

*Robert said:* "It is a bad thing to take away local justice in this way. Rutherglen has a long history and is the oldest royal burgh in Scotland. There is significant saving of the time of police witnesses due to the location of the Court next door to the Police Station.

"The proposal was put through in too much of a rush with too many unanswered questions about it - there ought to be a presumption against discontinuing the court."

### Campaigning for local people A Better Deal for Tenants

Robert Brown has been campaigning for a mandatory deposit scheme to protect tenants against unscrupulous landlords. Tenants are often required to pay over a deposit to landlords as security against damage to the property during the tenancy - but there are suggestions that some landlords routinely hold on to the deposit anyway.

*Robert Brown said:* "In principle, the idea of landlords taking a deposit against loss of equipment or damage to a property during a tenancy is perfectly acceptable. Some tenants do damage property and leave flats like war zones. However, it is quite outrageous if landlords hang on to deposits either when there is no damage or where damage is trivial. At present, the balance is too much in the landlord's favour on this issue."

### ...and for Children

Robert meets regularly with young people at schools and colleges across the Glasgow Region.

He has been urging the Scottish Government to do more for young people leaving care, to provide more supported living units, and to extend the framework of protection up to age 25.

*Robert said:* "We have to stop pushing young people in care out of homes at age 16. Young people leaving care are among the most vulnerable groups in society, and many have had to endure horrendous circumstances. Their chances of becoming homeless, unemployed, or suffering from mental health problems are all higher."



### Fighting for our Future

#### ...for Glasgow Science Centre

Glasgow Regional MSP Robert Brown has slammed the Scottish Government for its "shocking complacency" in slashing the funding for the award-winning Glasgow Science Centre by 40%. Robert led the campaign against the cuts, lodged a Parliamentary motion condemning them and met with the Education Secretary on the matter.

*Robert Brown said:* "Although we were successful in getting some additional funding from the Scottish Government, the core cut in funding remained - it makes a total nonsense of the Government's promises about supporting science and opportunities for children to be inspired by science."

#### Post Office Closures

Robert has campaigned with local people against Post Office closures ordered by the UK Government. The campaigns to save Kelvindale and Hyndland Post Offices forced a climb down, but local objections were ignored at Bankhead Post Office in Rutherglen which has now closed.

Robert Brown said: "We are still no nearer to seeing a secure, long term future for the Post Office network and Royal Mail. The sad thing is that action by the Government to withdraw services provided by the Post Office, and failure to invest properly have undermined the future."

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Local Advice surgeries are held by appointment at:

Constituency Office, Glasgow 1st Friday of month, 4pm

Hillhead Library, Byres Road 2nd Friday of month, 4pm

Constituency Office, Glasgow 3rd Friday of month, 4pm

Royal Burgh House, Rutherglen 4th Friday of month, 4pm